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### (54) Tetracyclic antidepressants.

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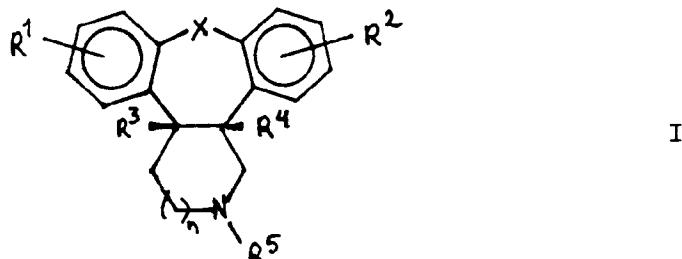
**EP 0 357 126 B1**

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**Description**

The invention relates to novel tetracyclic compounds of the general formula I:

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and also functional derivatives hereof, wherein: R<sup>1</sup> represents one or two identical or different substituents denoting H, OH, halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy;

R<sup>2</sup> represents one or two identical or different substituents having the same meaning as R<sup>1</sup>;

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are two substituents which are in the cis configuration and of which one is H and the other is OH;

20 R<sup>5</sup> is H or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl;

X denotes O or S;

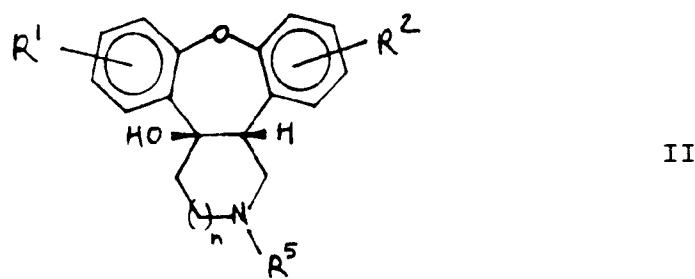
n is 0 or 1.

The compounds according to the invention have an interesting anti-depressant action, surprisingly without exhibiting neuroleptic or sedative properties.

25 In this respect these novel compounds differ from known related compounds, such as described, for example, in British Patent 1,567,862, and they are very useful for combating depressive conditions without the patient being hindered by sedative side effects. Moreover, the compounds of the invention can be used in combating anxiety conditions, such as agoraphobia.

The compounds of the general formula II, wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and n have the same meaning as above,:

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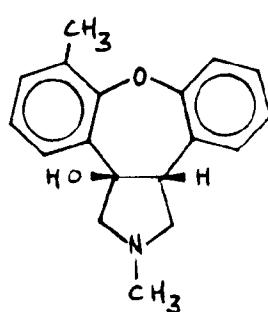
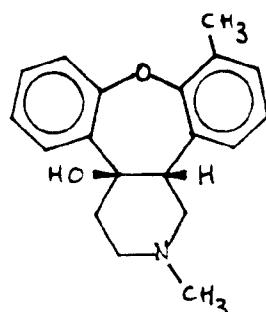
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and the functional derivatives hereof are considered to be some of the most active compounds. Compounds III and IV and their functional derivatives may be mentioned in particular.

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In the definition of compounds of the general formula I C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl denotes saturated alkyl substituents having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, specifically methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, sec-butyl, isobutyl and tert-butyl. C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy denotes alkoxy substituents having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, in which the alkyl group has the above meaning.

5 Functional derivatives of compounds of the general formula I are to be understood as meaning:

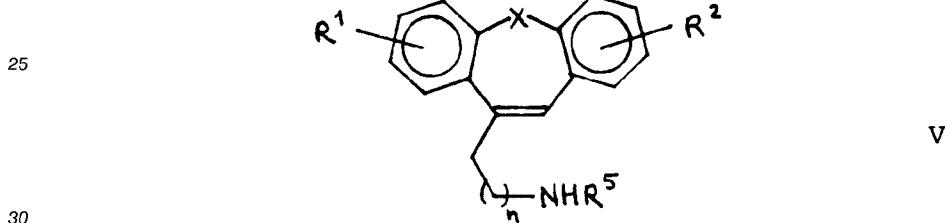
- nitrogen oxides;
- pharmaceutically acceptable salts;
- O-acyl (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>) esters;
- quaternary ammonium derivatives.

10 O-acyl (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>) esters are esters derived from saturated and unsaturated aliphatic carboxylic acids having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, such as acetic acid, propionic acid, octanecarboxylic acid, dodecanecarboxylic acid, palmitic acid, palmitolinic acid, stearic acid, linoleic acid and the like.

15 Salts of the compounds of the general formula I are understood as meaning acid addition salts which are derived from pharmaceutically acceptable inorganic and organic acids. Customary acids are hydrochloric acid, sulphuric acid, phosphoric acid, acetic acid, propionic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, malonic acid, tartaric acid, citric acid, ascorbic acid, salicylic acid, benzoic acid and the like.

The compounds according to the invention can be prepared in a manner customary for analogous compounds.

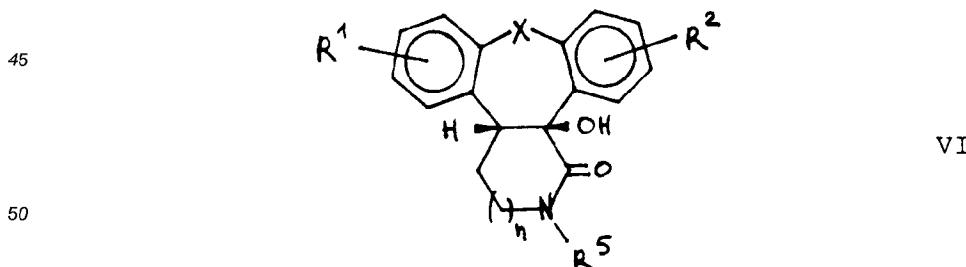
20 A suitable synthesis for compounds of the general formula I wherein R<sup>3</sup> is OH and R<sup>4</sup> is H comprises the condensation reaction of compounds of the general formula V:



or a salt hereof, wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, n and X have the meaning indicated above, with formaldehyde or a source of formaldehyde, such as paraformaldehyde, in a suitable solvent. The reaction is carried out at the reflux temperature of the particular solvent, but lower temperatures down to room temperature are very possible. The reaction is accelerated by the addition of a catalyst, as which, inter alia, phosphoric acid, polyphosphoric acid, hydrochloric acid and sulphuric acid are used. The reaction can proceed directly or via an intermediate iminium salt.

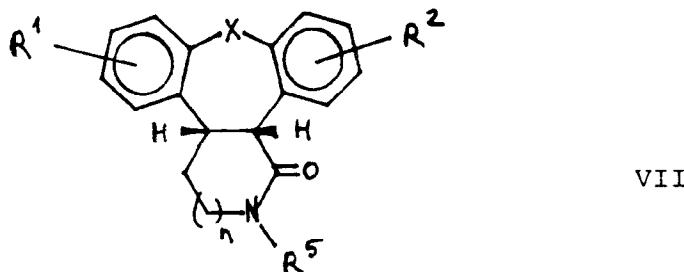
The starting materials V are described in the literature.

40 Another method of preparation with which compounds of the general formula I are obtained in which R<sup>3</sup> is H and R<sup>4</sup> is OH starts from compounds of the general formula VI:



wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, x and n have the meaning given above, which can be converted by means of reduction into compounds of the general formula I (R<sup>3</sup> is H; R<sup>4</sup> is OH). Suitable reductants are all reagents which can be used for the reduction of amide bonds, for example metal hydrides such as LiAlH<sub>4</sub>, LiAlH<sub>4</sub>-AlCl<sub>3</sub> mixtures and NaBH<sub>4</sub> in suitable solvents, such as ether or tetrahydrofuran, and ethanol in the case of NaBH<sub>4</sub>.

Compounds of the general formula VI can, in turn, be prepared by oxidation of compounds of the general formula VII:



- 15 wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, x and n have the meaning indicated above. Compounds of the formula VII are known, for example in the previously mentioned British Patent 1,567,862.

Compounds of general formula I wherein R<sup>5</sup> is H can be converted to compounds of the formula I wherein R<sup>5</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl. A conversion of this type is obtained by alkylation of the starting material (the cyclic amine), for example by reaction with an alkyl halide or by means of a reductive alkylation of a Schiff base.

The methods of preparation as described above in general yield mixtures of the cis and trans compounds, that is to say compounds of the general formula I which fall under the scope of the invention and compounds in which the groups R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are in the trans position relative to one another. The latter compounds do not fall under the scope of the invention and must be removed, for example by crystallization or chromatography.

The compounds of the formula I are usually obtained as the racemate. If desired, this racemate can be split into its enantiomers in the conventional way with the aid of an optically active acid. Both enantiomers, but also mixtures thereof, are considered part of the invention. By using optically pure starting materials it is also possible to obtain one of the enantiomers.

30 The nitrogen oxides of the compounds of the general formula I are obtained by oxidation of the free base I with the aid of hydrogen peroxide or a per-acid.

The quaternary ammonium derivatives of the compounds of the general formula I are obtained by reaction of amines of formula I with suitable reagents, such as methyl iodide, ethyl bromide and the like, in a manner known in the art.

35 The O-acyl esters of the compounds of the general formula I are obtained by allowing these compounds to react with an acid, acid chloride or active ester of the acid, in suitable solvents and if necessary catalysed by mineral acids or organic acids, such as p-toluenesulphonic acid. Esterification procedures of this type are generally known in organic chemistry.

These esters frequently display a better resorption, so that the biological availability is increased. In this 40 connection the higher esters are of particular importance because of their favourable lipophilic properties.

The compounds according to the invention can be processed to pharmaceutical preparations for enteral or parenteral administration by mixing with suitable auxiliaries. Possible forms of administration are oral, local and parenteral, for example in the form of a tablet, pill, powder, capsule, solution, emulsion, suspension, paste, spray or suppository. The oral administration form will usually be preferred for outpatients; for patients in hospital administration by means of injections will be widely used in addition.

45 The daily dosage is preferably 0.01-20 mg per kg body weight. For administration to humans a dosage of 10 to 700 mg per day and in particular 25-500 mg per day is preferred.

The following examples serve to illustrate the invention.

50 Example 1

cis-1,2,3,4,4a,13b-hexahydro-2,10-dimethylbenz[2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]pyridin-4a-ol

55 59 g 1, N-dimethyl-dibenz[b,f]oxepin-5-ethanamine were dissolved in 200 ml 96% alcohol under a nitrogen atmosphere. While stirring, 2 l 2 N HCl were added, followed by 880 ml of a 37% formaldehyde solution. This mixture was stirred for 40 hours at 50 °C. After cooling to 20 °C, the aqueous layer was removed and the precipitated solid substance was dissolved in 200 ml methylene chloride. The aqueous layer was extracted with 2 x 800 ml ether and the combined organic solutions washed with 2 x 650 ml 1N

HCl. The acid extracts were collected and brought to pH 10 with 25% aqueous ammonia. After stirring for 10 minutes, 2 l methylene chloride were added. The mixture was stirred for a further 10 minutes, after which the layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with 2 x 600 ml methylene chloride. This extract was dried over sodium sulphate and evaporated to 700 ml under vacuum. After cooling to 20 °C, the mixture was stirred for 5 hours, after which the precipitated crystals were collected and washed with methylene chloride. The mother liquor was concentrated to 200 ml and stirred for 2 hours at 15 °C. The second amount of crystals was collected and washed with cold methylene chloride. The total yield was 70 g (63%).

By recrystallization from methylene chloride material of sufficient purity was obtained. m.p. 129 °C.

Example 2

The following compounds were prepared in a manner analogous to that described in Example 1:

cis-1,2,3,4,4a,13b-hexahydro-2-methyldibenz[2,3:6,7] oxepino[4,5-c]pyridin-4a-ol. m.p. 168 °C.

cis-1,2,3,4,4a,13b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenz[2,3:6,7] oxepino[4,5-c]pyridin-4a-ol. m.p. 185 °C.

cis-12-chloro-1,2,3,4,4a,13b-hexahydro-2-methyldibenz [2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]pyridin-4a-ol (Z)-2-butenedioate (1:1). m.p. 206 °C.

cis-11-chloro-1,2,3,4,4a,13b-hexahydro-2-methyldibenz [2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]pyridin-4a-ol (Z)-2-butenedioate (1:1). m.p. 194 °C.

cis-8-chloro-1,2,3,4,4a,13b-hexahydro-2-methyldibenz [2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]pyridin-4a-ol (Z)-2-butenedioate (1:1). m.p. 181 °C.

cis-2,3,3a,12b-tetrahydro-2,7-dimethyl-1H-dibenz [2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]pyrrol-3a-ol (Z)-2-butenedioate (1:1). m.p. 163 °C.

Example 3

cis-2,3,3a,12b-tetrahydro-2,7-dimethyl-1H-dibenz [2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]pyrrol-3a-ol (Z)-2-butenedioate 1:1).

a) A solution of 46 g of a cis-trans mixture of 2,3,3a,12b-tetrahydro-2,9-dimethyl-1H-dibenz[2,3: 6,7]-oxepino[4,5-c]pyrrol-1-one in 1 l of 4:1 (v/v) mixture of DMSO (dimethylsulphoxide) and t-butanol was introduced into a 3 l reaction vessel. The solution was saturated with oxygen by passing in oxygen for 1 hour. The solution was cooled to 10 °C while passing in oxygen and 13.5 g sodium methoxide was added in portions. The cooling bath was removed and after 30 minutes a check was made to establish whether the reaction was complete. If necessary, oxygen was again fed in for 2 hours. The contents of the reaction vessel were poured out into 4 l water and the mixture acidified with dilute HCl. The mixture was extracted with methylene chloride and this extract was washed with water. The organic layer was dried over sodium sulphate, evaporated and taken up in 100 ml ethyl acetate. The residue dissolved completely after warming. The cis isomer then crystallized out and the mother liquor was chromatographed over silica with ethyl acetate. This gave a second portion of cis isomer. The total yield of cis isomer was 25.5 g.

b) A suspension of 11 g LiAlH<sub>4</sub> in 800 ml ether was prepared in a 5 l reaction vessel. A solution of 22 g AlCl<sub>3</sub> in 800 ml of ether was then added, with cooling. The suspension obtained was cooled to about 5 °C, after which the cis-2,3,3a,12b-tetrahydro-12b-hydroxy-2,9-dimethyl-1H-dibenz[2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]pyrrol-1-one (25.5 g), obtained in the previous step, dissolved in 650 ml THF (tetrahydrofuran) was added dropwise in the course of 1 hour. The temperature was kept at 5 °C during this addition. After the addition, the mixture was stirred for a further 1 hour, tlc was used to check whether the reaction was complete, and the reaction mixture was decomposed by the slow addition of 150 ml 1N NaOH. The mixture was stirred for a further 1 hour, after which the organic salts were filtered off and washed thoroughly with methylene chloride. The combined filtrates were evaporated and the residue was taken up in toluene/ethanol (8:1, v/v) and chromatographed over silica with this solvent mixture.

By recrystallization from a toluene/hexane mixture a pure product was obtained which was mixed with 6.1 g maleic acid. 20.6 g (65%) of the pure end product, m.p. 163 °C, were obtained by crystallization from ethyl acetate.

Example 4

The following compounds were prepared in a manner analogous to that described in Example 3.

cis-1,2,3,4,4a,13b-hexahydro-2-methyldibenz[2,3:6,7] oxepino[4,5-c]pyridin-13b-ol. m.p. 162 °C.

cis-11-chloro-1,2,3,4,4a,13b-hexahydro-2-methyldibenz [2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]pyridin-13b-ol hydrochloride. m.p. 242 °C.

cis-6-chloro-1,2,3,4,4a,13b-hexahydro-2-methyldibenz [2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]pyridin-13b-ol. m.p. 134 °C.

cis-1,2,3,4,4a,13b-hexahydro-2,10-dimethyldibenz [2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]pyridin-13b-ol (Z)-2-butenedioate (1:1). m.p. 174 °C.

cis-1,2,3,4,4a,13b-hexahydro-2-methyldibenzo[2,3:6,7] thiepino[4,5-c]pyridin-13b-ol hydrochloride. m.p. 229 °C.

cis-2,3,3a,12b-tetrahydro-2-methyl-1H-dibenz[2,3:6,7] oxepino[4,5-c]pyrrol-3a-ol (E)-2-butenedioate (1:1). m.p. 178 °C.

cis-5-chloro-2,3,3a,12b-tetrahydro-2-methyl-1H-dibenz [2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]pyrrol-3a-ol (Z)-2-butenedioate (1:1). m.p. 191 °C.

cis-6-chloro-2,3,3a,12b-tetrahydro-2-methyl-1H-dibenz [2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]pyrrol-3a-ol hydrochloride. m.p. 201 °C.

cis-2,3,3a,12b-tetrahydro-2-methyl-1H-dibenz[2,3:6,7] thiepino[4,5-c]pyrrol-3a-ol hydrochloride.

cis-2,3,3a,12b-tetrahydro-2,7-dimethyl-1H-dibenz [2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]pyrrol-3a-ol (Z)-2-butenedioate (1:1). m.p. 163 °C.

#### Example 5

cis-1,2,3,4,4a,13b-hexahydro-2,10-dimethyldibenz [2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]pyridin-13b-ol (Z)-2-butenedioate (1:1).

a) A solution of 8.6 g cis-1,2,3,4,4a,13b-hexahydro-13b-hydroxy-2,10-dimethyldibenz[2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]pyridin-1-one in 550 ml THF was introduced into a 1 l reaction vessel. 6 g LiAlH<sub>4</sub> were added, while stirring, and after 1.5 hours the mixture was decomposed by adding 24 ml water. The mixture was stirred for 1 hour and the salts were filtered off and washed with THF. After evaporating the combined THF solutions, the mass was taken up in 200 ml ether and the solid substance (a dimer compound) filtered off with suction.

b) The solid substance was suspended in 200 ml ethanol (96%) and HCl gas was passed in for 10 minutes. The mixture was brought to the reflux temperature, the solid substance slowly going into solution. The solution was stirred for a further 15 minutes, after which the mixture was evaporated to dryness under vacuum, the crude quaternary iminium salt being obtained.

c) 1 g of the quaternary iminium salt was dissolved as well as possible in 25 ml absolute ethanol, with heating. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and 1.5 g NaBH<sub>4</sub> was added. After the exothermic reaction had ceased, the mixture was stirred for a further 2 hours under a nitrogen atmosphere at room temperature. 15 ml methanol were then added and the reaction mixture was refluxed for 30 minutes. The mixture was evaporated to dryness and the residue taken up in 100 ml toluene and washed with water. The extract was dried over sodium sulphate and evaporated to dryness. The maleate was prepared in the manner described in example 3. m.p. 174 °C.

#### Example 6

The following compounds were prepared in a manner analogous to that described in Example 5:

cis-2,3,3a,12b-tetrahydro-2-methyl-1H-dibenz[2,3:6,7] oxepino[4,5-c]pyrrol-3a-ol (E)-2-butenedioate (1:1).

m.p. 178 °C.

cis-5-chloro-2,3,3a,12b-tetrahydro-2-methyl-1H-dibenz [2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]pyrrol-3a-ol (Z)-2-butenedioate (1:1). m.p. 191 °C.

#### Example 7

Enantiomeric separation of racemic cis-2,3,3a,12b-tetrahydro-2-methyl-1H-dibenz[2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]pyrrol-3a-ol.

150 g of racemic cis-2,3,3a,12b-tetrahydro-2-methyl-1H-dibenz[2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]pyrrol-3a-ol was dissolved in 3 l 96% ethanol, after which 106 g (-) dibenzoyltartaric acid [(-)DBT] was added. After 5 days the crystals were filtered off with suction. The mother liquor was again crystallized with (-) DBT and this was repeated a further twice. The collected crystals were washed free with 33% NaOH and methylene chloride, after which the crystals were recrystallized from ethyl acetate. The mother liquor was again crystallized from (-) DBT and the crystals rendered free and recrystallized from ethyl acetate and then from hexane.

This gave 4.8 g (-)-cis-2,3,3a,12b-tetrahydro-2-methyl-1H-benz [2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]pyrrol-3a-ol:  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -103^\circ$  ( $c = 0.5$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ), m.p.  $113.5^\circ\text{C}$ .

The collected mother liquors and unprocessed crystalline material were rendered free and then treated in the same way as described above with (+)-dibenzoyltartaric acid. 6.5 g (+)-cis-2,3,3a,12b-tetrahydro-2-methyl-1H-benz[2,3:6,7]oxepino [4,5-c] pyrrol-3a-ol were obtained:  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +101^\circ$  ( $c = 0.5$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ), m.p.  $114^\circ\text{C}$ .

#### Example 8

10 cis-1,2,3,4,4a,13b-hexahydro-2,10-dimethyldibenz [2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]pyridin-4a-ol acetate (ester)

While stirring, 2.05 g triethylamine were added to 5 g of the compound from Example 1 in 50 ml dry dimethylformamide under nitrogen. 1.32 ml acetyl chloride in 5 ml dry dimethylformamide were then added, the temperature rising to  $35^\circ\text{C}$ . The suspension was stirred for a further 48 hours at room temperature, 15 after which the reaction was brought to completion by adding an extra amount of 0.2 ml acetyl chloride and 0.2 ml triethylamine. After stirring for a further 4 hours, the mixture was poured out into water and extracted with ether and the organic layer was washed with water and evaporated. The crude product was recrystallized from ethanol, after which a second amount of substance was obtained from the mother liquor after column chromatography over silica (toluene-ethanol 9:1). The collected fractions were recrystallized 20 from ethanol, after which 2.15 g cis-1,2,3,4,4a,13b-hexahydro-2,10-dimethylbenz[2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]-pyridin-4a-ol acetate (ester) were obtained. m.p.  $160^\circ\text{C}$ .

#### Example 9

25 The following compounds were prepared in a manner analogous to that described in example 8:  
 cis-1,2,3,4,4a,13b-hexahydro-2-methyldibenz[2,3:6,7] oxepino[4,5-c]pyridin-4a-ol acetate (ester). m.p.  $128^\circ\text{C}$ .  
 cis-1,2,3,4,4a,13b-hexahydro-2,10-dimethyldibenz [2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]pyridin-4a-ol hexadecanoate (ester). m.p.  $68^\circ\text{C}$ .  
 30 cis-6-chloro-2,3,3a,12b-tetrahydro-2-methyl-1H-dibenz [2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]pyrrol-3a-ol acetate (ester). m.p.  $151^\circ\text{C}$ .  
 cis-2,3,3a,12b-tetrahydro-2-methyl-1H-dibenz [2,3:6,7] oxepino[4,5-c]pyrrol-3a-ol acetate (ester). m.p.  $123^\circ\text{C}$ .

35 Example 10

cis-1,2,3,4,4a,13b-hexahydro-4a-hydroxy-2,2,10-trimethyldibenzo[2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]pyridinium iodide

50 5.0 g (17 mmol) of the compound of Example 1 were dissolved in a mixture of 200 ml of toluene, 100 ml of ether and 50 ml of methanol. While stirring 50 ml of methyl iodide were added at room temperature. After 24 hrs crystals had formed. The mother liquor was filtered off and the crystals collected. This gave 6.75 g (91%) of the quaternary iodide. m.p.  $> 260^\circ\text{C}$  (dec.).

#### Example 11

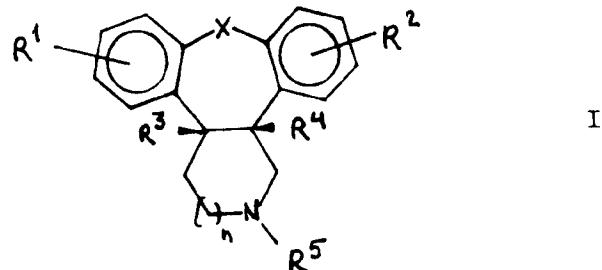
45 (2 $\alpha$ ,4 $\alpha$  $\alpha$ , 13b $\alpha$ )-1,2,3,4,4a,13b-hexahydro-2,10-dimethyldibenzo[2,3:6,7]oxepino[4,5-c]pyridin-4a-ol N-oxide

50 8.43 g (28.6 mmol) of the compound of Example 1 were dissolved in 300 ml of methylene chloride and cooled to  $0^\circ\text{C}$  while stirring. A solution of 10 g of m-chloroperbenzoic acid in 100 ml of methylene chloride was then added in 2 hrs. After 2.5 hrs the reaction was complete. The excess of oxidant was destroyed by slow addition of saturated sodium sulphite solution (100 ml). Next 200 ml of 2 N sodium hydroxide solution was added and the solution concentrated to dryness. The residue was dissolved in hot ethanol as far as possible. The remaining salts were removed by filtration and the filtrate was again concentrated to dryness. Now the residue was refluxed with excess of methylene chloride and again filtered with suction. The 55 methylene chloride layer was concentrated to dryness and the residue recrystallized from acetone, yielding 6.75 g (76%) of fine crystals. m.p.  $213^\circ\text{C}$ .

**Claims****Claims for the following Contracting States : AT, BE, CH, DE, FR, GB, IT, LI, NL, SE**

1. Tetracyclic compounds of the general formula I:

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wherein:

R<sup>1</sup> represents one or two identical or different substituents denoting H, OH, halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy;

20

R<sup>2</sup> represents one or two identical or different substituents having the same meaning as R<sup>1</sup>;

25

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are two substituents which are in the cis configuration and of which one is H and the other is OH;

25

R<sup>5</sup> is H or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl;

X denotes O or S;

n is 0 or 1; and as functional derivatives

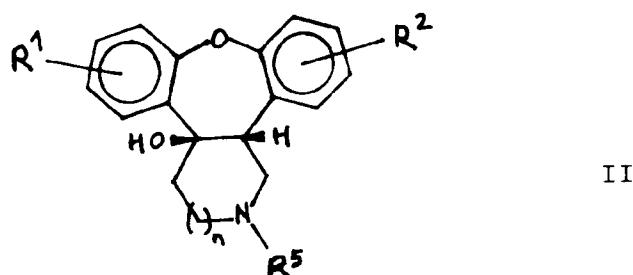
nitrogen oxides, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, O-acyl (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>) esters, or quaternary ammonium derivatives hereof.

30

2. Compounds according to claim 1, of the general formula II

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wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and n have the meaning given above, and also functional derivatives hereof.

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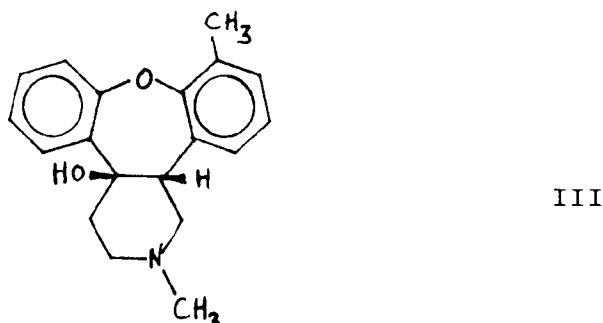
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3. Compound according to claim 1, of the formula III,

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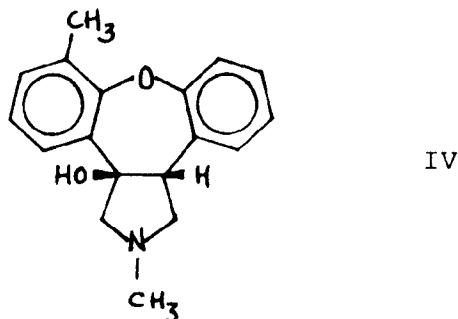
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and also functional derivatives hereof.

4. Compound according to claim 1, of the formula IV



and also functional derivatives hereof.

5. Compound according to any one of claims 1-4 for the use in therapy.

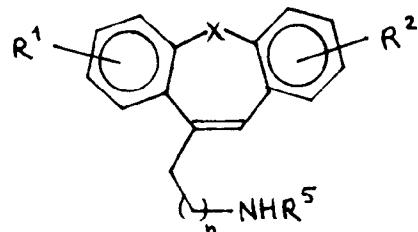
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6. Method for the synthesis of the compound of any one of claims 1-4, characterized in that a compound of the general formula V:

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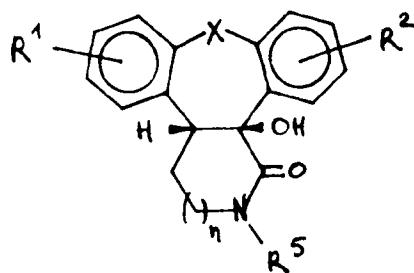
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V



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or a salt thereof, wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, n and X have the meanings given in claim 1, is condensed with formaldehyde or a source of formaldehyde, or that a compound of the general formula VI:



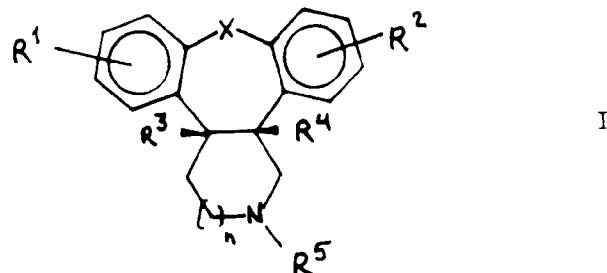
VI

wherein R¹, R², R⁵, n and X have the previously given meanings, is reduced, after which the compound obtained is optionally converted into a nitrogen oxide, pharmaceutically acceptable salt, O-acyl (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>) ester, or quaternary ammonium derivative.

- 15
7. Pharmaceutical preparation, characterized in that the active constituent consists of one or more substances of any one of claims 1-4.

20 Claims for the following Contracting States : ES, GR

1. A method for the synthesis of tetracyclic compounds of the general formula I



35 wherein:

R¹ represents one or two identical or different substituents denoting H, OH, halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy;

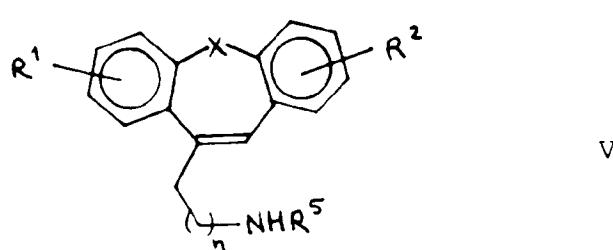
R² represents one or two identical or different substituents having the same meaning as R¹;

40 R³ and R⁴ are two substituents which are in the cis configuration and of which one is H and the other is OH;

R⁵ is H or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl;

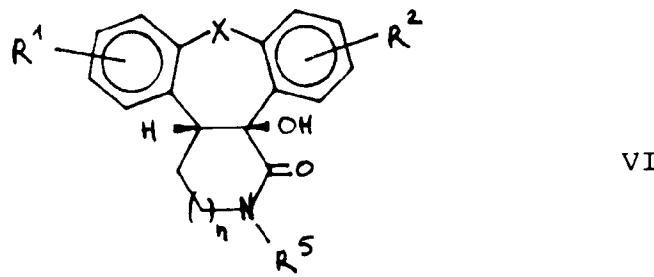
X denotes O or S;

n is 0 or 1; and as functional derivatives nitrogen oxides, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, O-acyl (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>) esters, or quaternary ammonium derivatives hereof, characterized in that a compound of the 45 general formula V:



or a salt thereof, wherein R¹, R², R⁵, n and X have the previously given meanings, is condensed with formaldehyde or a source of formaldehyde, or that a compound of the general formula VI:

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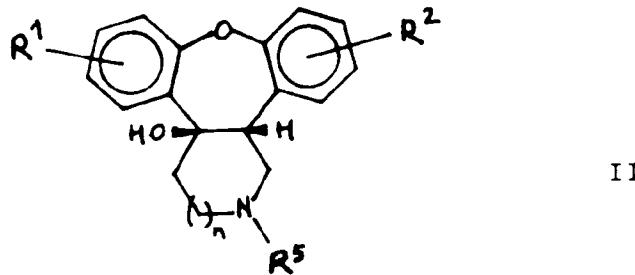
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wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, n and X have the previously given meanings, is reduced, after which the compound obtained is optionally converted into a nitrogen oxide, pharmaceutically acceptable salt, O-acyl (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>) ester, or quaternary ammonium derivative.

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2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the tetracyclic compounds have the general formula II,

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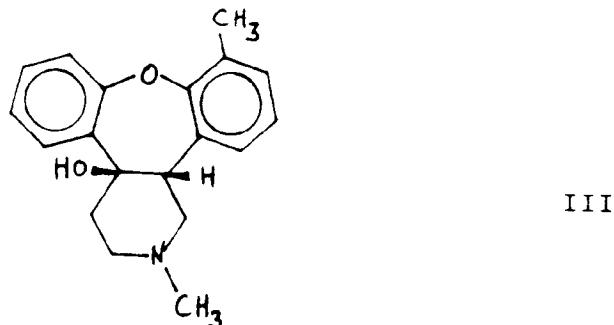
wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, and n have the meaning given above, and also functional derivatives hereof.

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3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the tetracyclic compound has the formula III,

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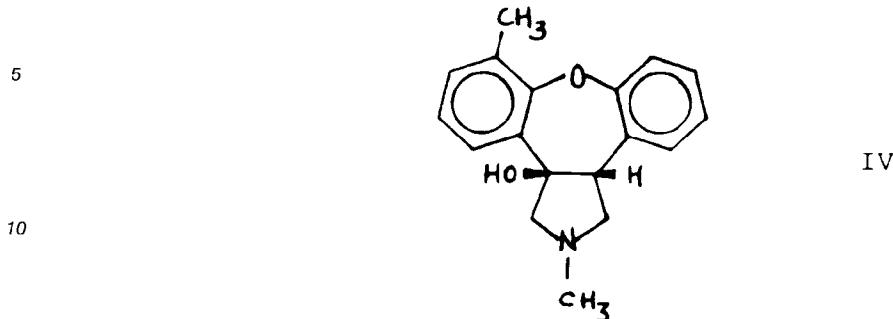
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and also functional derivatives hereof.

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4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the tetracyclic compound has the formula IV,

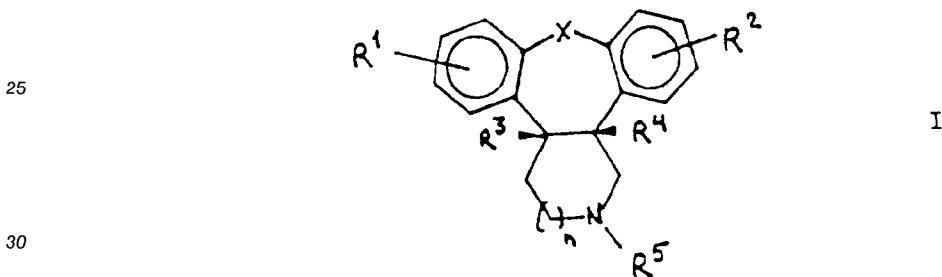


15 and also functional derivatives hereof.

**Patentansprüche**

**Patentansprüche für folgende Vertragsstaaten : AT, BE, CH, DE, FR, GB, IT, LI, NL, SE**

20 1. Tetrazyklische Verbindungen der allgemeinen Formel I



in welcher

35 R<sup>1</sup> einen oder zwei gleiche oder verschiedene Substituenten darstellen, die H, OH, Halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-Alkyl oder C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-Alkoxy bedeuten;

R<sup>2</sup> einen oder zwei gleiche oder verschiedene Substituenten mit derselben Bedeutung wie R<sup>1</sup> darstellen;

40 R<sup>3</sup> und R<sup>4</sup> zwei Substituenten sind, die sich in der cis-Konfiguration befinden und von denen der eine H und der andere OH ist;

R<sup>5</sup> H oder C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-Alkyl ist;

X O oder S darstellt;

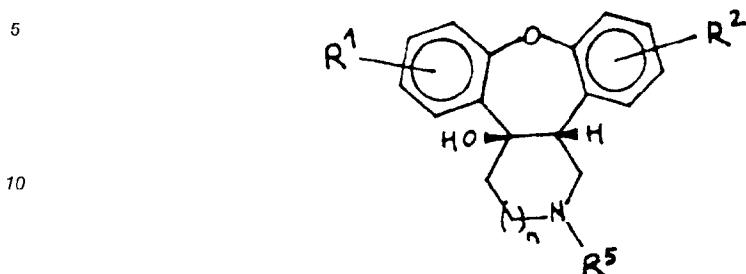
n Null oder 1 ist; und als funktionelle Derivate Stickoxide, pharmazeutisch annehmbare Salze, O-Acyl (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>)-ester oder quaternäre Ammoniumderivate davon.

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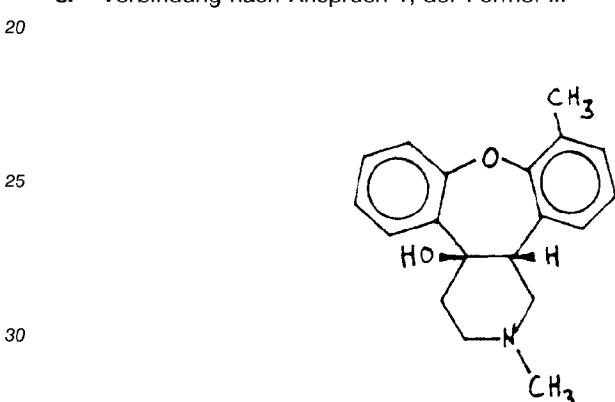
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## 2. Verbindungen nach Anspruch 1, der allgemeinen Formel II



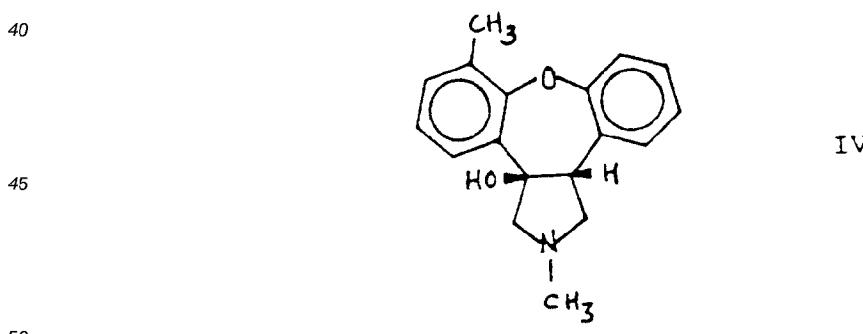
15 in welcher R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> und n dieselbe Bedeutung wie oben aufweisen, und auch deren funktionelle Derivate.

## 3. Verbindung nach Anspruch 1, der Formel III



35 und auch deren funktionelle Derivate.

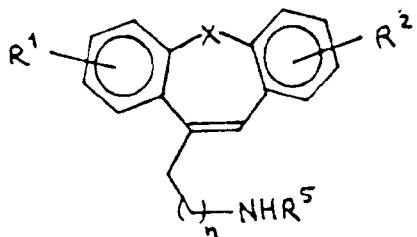
## 4. Verbindung nach Anspruch 1 der Formel IV



und auch deren funktionelle Derivate.

- 55
5. Verbindung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4 zur Verwendung in der Therapie.
6. Verfahren für die Synthese der Verbindung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4, dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass eine Verbindung der allgemeinen Formel V

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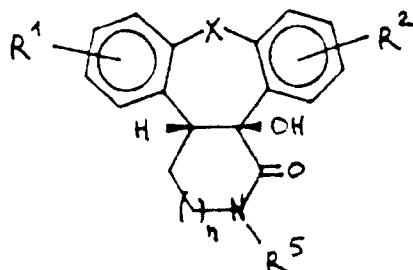
V

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oder ein Salz davon, in welcher Formel R¹, R², R⁵, n und X die in Anspruch 1 gegebene Bedeutung aufweisen, mit Formaldehyd oder einer Formaldehydquelle kondensiert wird oder dass eine Verbindung der allgemeinen Formel VI

15

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VI

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in welcher R¹, R², R⁵, n und X die zuvor angegebene Bedeutung aufweisen, reduziert wird, worauf die erhaltene Verbindung gegebenenfalls in ein Stickoxid, ein pharmazeutisch annehmbares Salz, einen O-Acyl (C₁-C₂₀)-ester oder ein quaternäres Ammoniumderivat umgewandelt wird.

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7. Pharmazeutisches Präparat, dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass der wirksame Bestandteil aus einer oder mehreren Substanzen nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4 besteht.

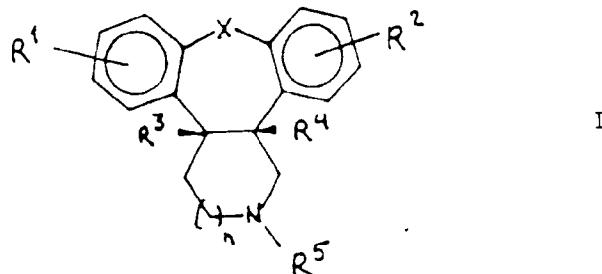
#### Patentansprüche für folgende Vertragsstaaten : ES, GR

35

1. Verfahren für die Synthese von tetrazyklischen Verbindungen der allgemeinen Formel I

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in welcher

R¹ einen oder zwei gleiche oder verschiedene Substituenten darstellt, die H, OH, Halogen, C₁-C₄-Alkyl oder C₁-C₄-Alkoxy bedeuten;

R² einen oder zwei gleiche oder verschiedene Substituenten mit derselben Bedeutung wie R¹ darstellt;

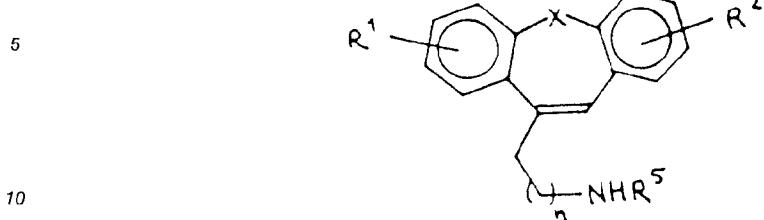
R³ und R⁴ zwei Substituenten sind, welche sich in cis-Konfiguration befinden und von denen der eine H und der andere OH ist;

R⁵ H oder C₁-C₄-Alkyl ist;

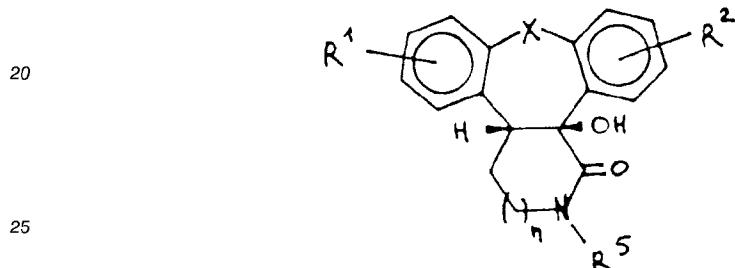
X O oder S bedeutet;

n Null oder 1 ist; und als funktionelle Derivate Stickoxide, pharmazeutisch annehmbare Salze, O-Acyl (C₁-C₂₀) ester oder quaternäre Ammoniumderivate davon, dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass eine Verbin-

dung der allgemeinen Formel V

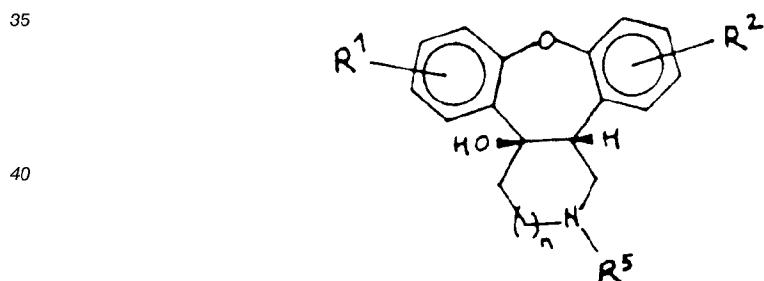


10 oder ein Salz davon, in welcher Formel R¹, R², R⁵, n und X die oben angegebene Bedeutung aufweisen, mit Formaldehyd oder einer Formadehydquelle kondensiert wird oder dass eine Verbindung  
15 der allgemeinen Formel VI



25 in welcher R¹, R², R⁵, n und X die oben angegebene Bedeutung aufweisen, reduziert wird, wonach die  
30 erhaltene Verbindung gegebenenfalls in ein Stickoxid, ein pharmazeutisch annehmbares Salz, einen O-Acyl-(C₁-C₂₀)-ester oder ein quaternäres Ammoniumderivat umgewandelt wird.

2. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, in welchem die tetrazyklischen Verbindungen die allgemeine Formel II

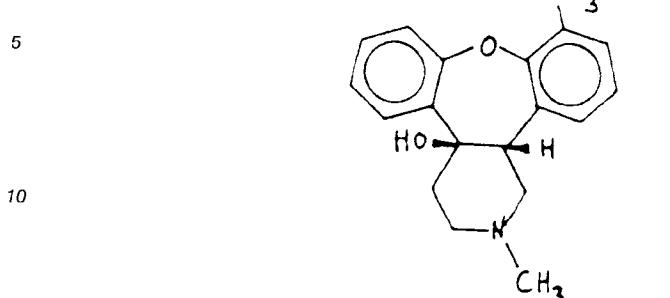


45 aufweisen, in welcher R¹, R², R⁵ und n die oben angegebene Bedeutung besitzen, und auch funktionelle Derivate davon.

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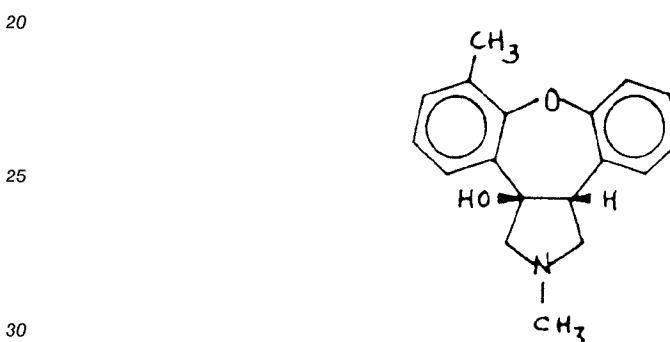
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3. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, in welchem die tetrazyklische Verbindung die Formel III



15 aufweist, und auch funktionelle Derivate davon.

4. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, in welchem die tetrazyklische Verbindung die Formel IV

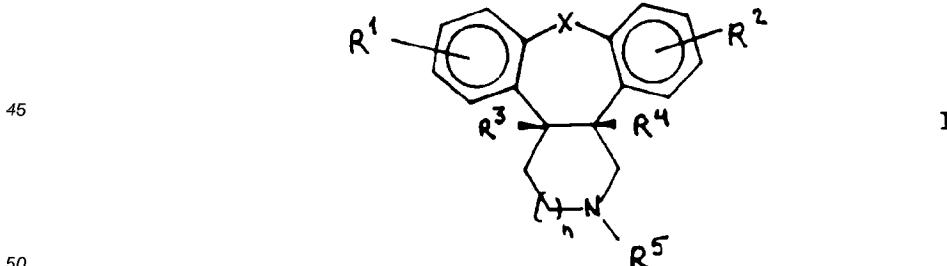


30 aufweist, und auch funktionelle Derivate davon.

35 Revendications

Revendications pour les Etats contractants suivants : AT, BE, CH, DE, FR, GB, IT, LI, NL, SE

- 40 1. Composés tétracycliques représentés par la formule générale I:



dans laquelle:

55 R<sup>1</sup> représente un ou deux substituants, identiques ou différents, consistant en un atome d'hydrogène, un groupe OH, un atome d'halogène, un radical alkyle en C<sub>1</sub> à C<sub>4</sub> ou alkoxy en C<sub>1</sub> à C<sub>4</sub>;

R<sup>2</sup> représente un ou deux substituants, identiques ou différents, tels que définis pour R<sup>1</sup>;

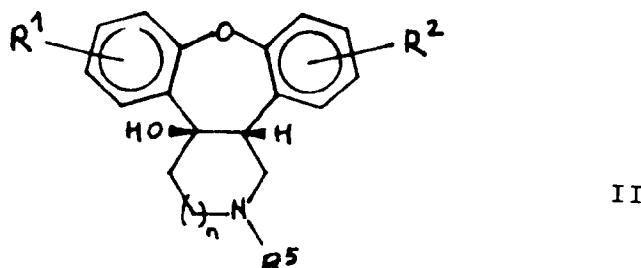
R<sup>3</sup> et R<sup>4</sup> correspondent à deux substituants qui sont en configuration cis et DONT l'un repréSEN-

te un atome d'hydrogène et l'autre représente un groupe OH;  
 R<sup>5</sup> représente un atome d'hydrogène ou un radical alkyle en C<sub>1</sub> à C<sub>4</sub>;  
 X représente O ou S;  
 n est égal à 0 ou 1;

et, les dérivés fonctionnels de ces composés consistant en oxydes d'azote, les sels pharmaceutiquement acceptables, les O-acyl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>)-esters ou les dérivés d'ammonium quaternaires en dérivant.

2. Composés selon la revendication 1, représentés par la formule générale II:

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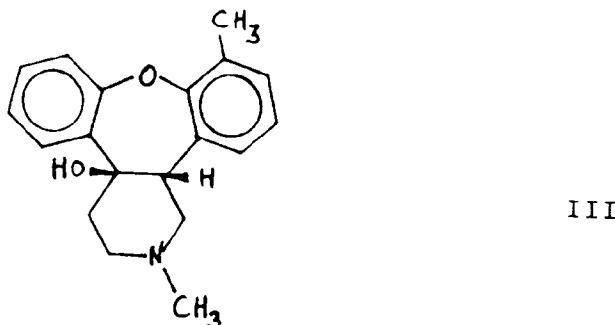
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dans laquelle R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> et n sont tels que définis ci-dessus,  
 ainsi que les dérivés fonctionnels en dérivant.

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3. Composés selon la revendication 1, représentés par la formule III:

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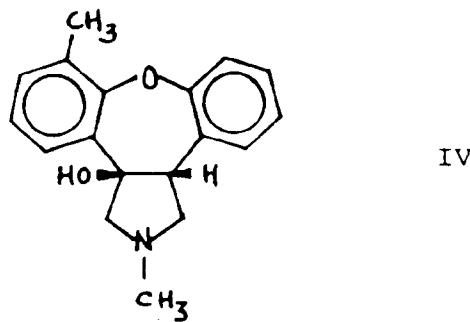
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ainsi que les dérivés fonctionnels en dérivant.

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4. Composés selon la revendication 1, représentés par la formule IV:

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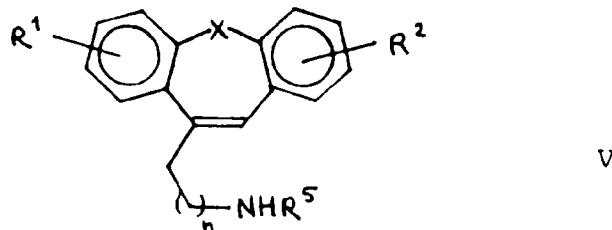
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ainsi que les dérivés fonctionnels en dérivant.

5. Composés selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4, destinés à être utilisés en thérapie.
6. Procédé de synthèse d'un composé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4, caractérisé en ce qu'un composé de formule générale V ou sel dérivant de ce composé de formule générale V:

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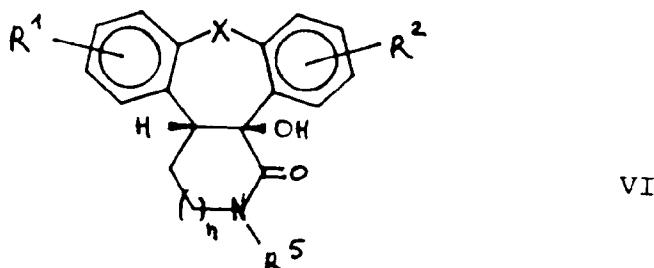


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dans laquelle R¹, R², R⁵, n et X sont tels que définis dans la revendication 1,  
est condensé avec un formaldéhyde ou une source de formaldéhyde ou en ce qu'un composé de  
formule générale VI:

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dans laquelle R¹, R², R⁵, n et X sont tels que définis ci-dessus  
est réduit, puis le composé obtenu est éventuellement converti en un oxyde d'azote, en un sel  
pharmaceutiquement acceptable, en un O-acyl(C₁-C₂₀)-ester ou en un composé d'ammonium quater-  
naire.

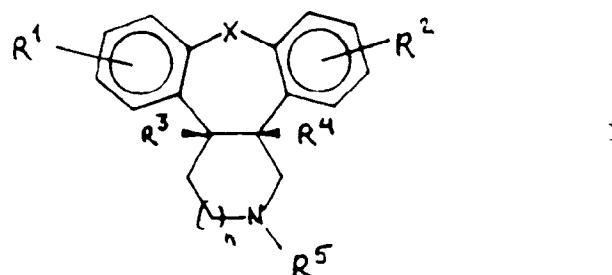
7. Une préparation pharmaceutique caractérisée en ce que le principe actif consiste en une ou plusieurs  
des substances selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4.

40 Revendications pour les Etats contractants suivants : ES, GR

1. Un procédé de synthèse de composés tétracycliques représentés par la formule générale I:

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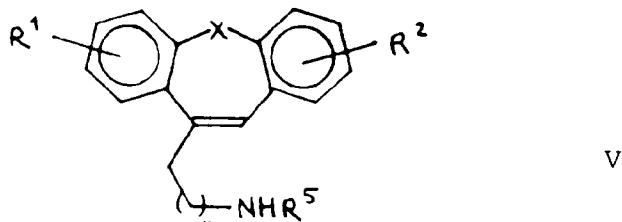


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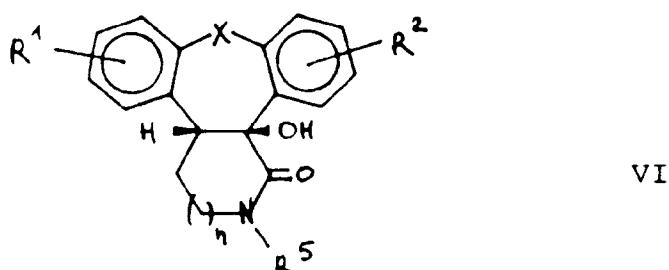
dans laquelle:

R¹ représente un ou deux substituants, identiques ou différents, choisis parmi un atome  
d'hydrogène, un groupe OH, un atome d'halogène, un radical alkyle en C₁ à C₄ ou

	R <sup>2</sup>	alkoxy en C <sub>1</sub> à C <sub>4</sub> ;
	R <sup>3</sup> et R <sup>4</sup>	représente un ou deux substituants, identiques ou différents, tels que définis pour R <sup>1</sup> ; correspondent à deux substituants qui sont en configuration cis, dont l'un représente un atome d'hydrogène et l'autre représente un groupe OH;
5	R <sup>5</sup>	représente un atome d'hydrogène ou un radical alkyle en C <sub>1</sub> à C <sub>4</sub> ;
	X	représente O ou S;
	n	est égal à 0 ou 1;
10		et, en tant que composés fonctionnels en dérivant, les oxydes d'azote, les sels pharmaceutiquement acceptables, les O-acyl(C <sub>1</sub> -C <sub>20</sub> )-esters ou les dérivés d'ammonium quaternaires, caractérisé en ce qu'un composé de formule générale V ou sel dérivant d'un tel composé de formule V:

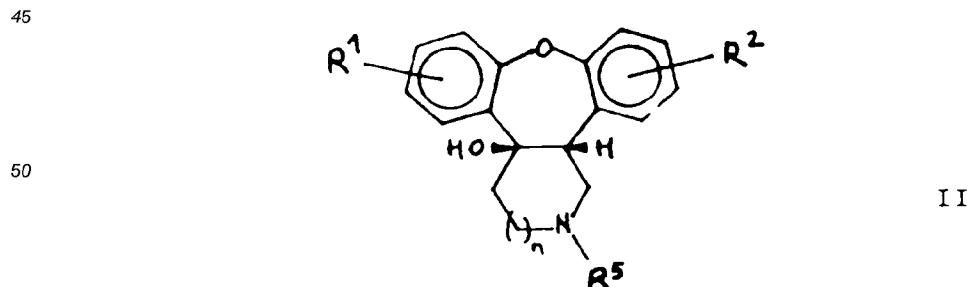


dans laquelle R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, n et X ont les significations indiquées ci dessus, est condensé avec un formaldéhyde ou une source de formaldéhyde ou en ce qu'un composé de formule générale VI:



40 dans laquelle R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, n et X sont tels que définis ci-dessus  
est réduit, puis le composé obtenu est éventuellement converti en un oxyde d'azote, en un sel pharmaceutiquement acceptable, en un O-acyl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>)-ester ou en un dérivé d'ammonium quaternaire.

2. Un procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel les composés tétracycliques sont représentés par la formule générale II:



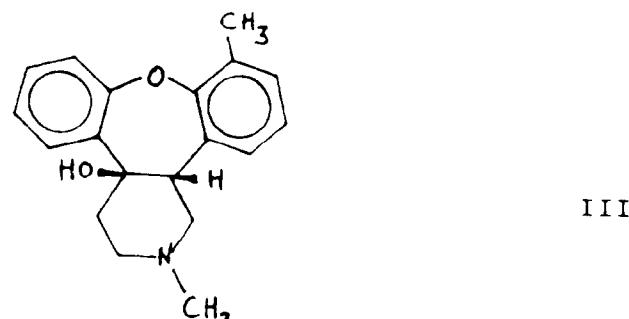
dans laquelle  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^5$  et  $n$  sont tels que définis ci-dessus, ainsi que les dérivés fonctionnels en dérivant.

3. Un procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le dérivé tétracyclique est représenté par la formule III:

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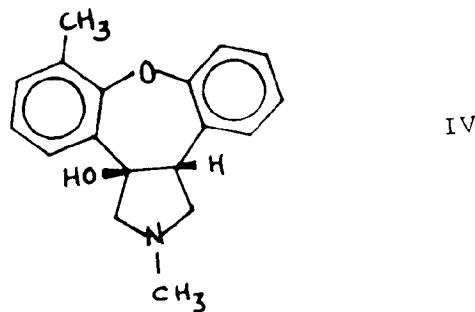
ainsi que les dérivés fonctionnels en dérivant.

4. Un procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le composé tétracyclique est représenté par la formule IV:

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